

Yale University *New Haven, Connecticut 06520*

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Box 2036, Yale Station

March 16, 1970

Mrs. Lynda Weisberg
Research Assistant
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, California 94305

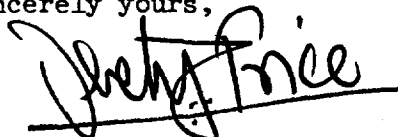
Dear Mrs. Weisberg:

The topic you have picked is a very nice one though I feel a little concerned about there being two quite different subjects that may be conflated. The one that you might be interested in is a fadish or fashionable interest taken by society and the general public in some new field or development or outcome of science. The other, on which there exists the literature, is a fashion amongst scientists themselves who decide that the strategy of a field is such that "all the good things this year are in ---."

I know two people who have written about the second sort of fad. Diana Crane, who used to work with me here, wrote a paper "Fashion in Science: Does it Exist?" which was printed in Social Problems, Vol. 16, No. 4, Spring 1969. She has written other things, too, along this line and the best course is to write to her requesting reprints, etc. The other person is Dr. David Krantz, Department of Psychology, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois. I forget whether the pieces he wrote on fashion have been published but, again, you can get the material from him.

Do keep me in touch with your progress and do not hesitate to call on me further if I can be of any help or support.

Sincerely yours,



Derek J. de Solla Price
Avalon Professor of the
History of Science

DJP:al